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Notes and Medical History

...of...

Lebanon County

PAPER READ BEFORE THE

Lebanon County Historical Society

APRIL 24TH, 1908

BY

WILLIAM M. GUILFORD, M.D.

LEBANON, PA.

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WILLIAM M. GLENISTER, M.D.

Notes and Medical History of Lebanon County.

By WILLIAM M. GUILFORD, M.D.

Fifty and more years ago this county was largely forested. "long woods" extended in every direction of the compass, even encroaching on what are now the city limits; saw mills were but few, and these only on active streams, making lumber for homes and barns; none run by steam, and slaughtering grove and forest for outside demand.

The roads were bad and indifferent; the Berks & Dauphin and Horseshoe turnpikes the only tolerable. There were no railroads; the advent of the Plank-Road was a colossal improvement upon the State and township roads; the weg-meister, (road supervisor) an official only in name; the doctors were compelled to make their rounds in two-wheeled gigs, or on horseback with their saddlebags.

The Union Canal was the chief mode of transportation, rivaling the Conestoga and heavy wagons, the four or six-horse teams of which were often bedecked with ribbons or bells, bring-

ing in freightage, ore and iron, and the canal returning the merchants' goods.

The bugle, which was a signal to the lock-tenders to open their locks, or denote the arrival of boats, was often heard and answered; the tired mules had a needed rest, and the boy behind the mules ceased from the snap of his whip. What the navigators generally brought for the doctors was, the captain sitting alongside of the hot cooking-stove in the cabin of his boat and shaking with a chill, or one of the crew laid up in his bunk with a raging fever; malaria, or chills and fever, being much more common then than now.

The seasons were apparently longer, especially the winter; drifts above the fences; slush and mud in the spring; deep cut ruts and chuck-holes at almost any time.

The streams were either forded or crossed on primal bridges consisting of hewn logs, on which were laid loose-warped planks; these bridges were often placed to the side of the roadway in order to have space for the watering of cattle or to moisten the wheels of parched and creaking farm wagons, and were traps after sunset to the unwary driver.

At night darkness reigned supreme; to become lost on the unfenced forest roads was no unusual occurrence, and to find your way back a matter of chance.

In the winter to break down fences, carrying an axe and a shovel to get away from the drifted roads with your sleigh, and cut through fields made bare by the winds, and ridged by the harvested corn, was an experience unlike travelling in a Pullman palace car. I have known clear cold nights, temperature below zero, when the snow would ring under the clatter of the iron-shod hoofs of the horse you bestrode, and your face would tingle with the ice crystals in the sharp air.

In the summer, however, the shaded highways and lanes, the fresh smell of the upturned ploughed fields, the blossoming

clover, the golden fields of grain, the green and yellow of the standing corn, the blooming flax, the chirp and song of birds, were a joy and a delight.

Early morning would often find the mowers with their scythes or cradles in rhythmic movement through the lush grass or ripened grain; the clear ringing of the whetstone giving edge to the steel blades was like the clash of sword in mortal combat.

In the village, when darkness closed on the quiet streets, the unpretentious windows of the storekeepers had their blinds drawn down; the citizens early closed their shutters; from many a little home could be heard the evening hymn or the sturdy voice of the father in earnest bedtime prayer, and stillness soon reigned.

The unhappy doctor, when called at night to visit a patient, found poor sidewalks, or not paved at all; pumps from which to gain the water supply often stood in the middle of the way, and in the darkness were formidable objects to butt against. The grave-yards adjoining the churches were cruelly said to be haunted.

The "Potter's Field," in which were interred murderers and suicides, who were denied Christian burial in the "God's Acres" of the churches, was located at where now stand the buildings of the Daily Report newspaper, and was a place much feared by superstitious people.

The old cylinder tin lantern, perforated with slits, and holding a sickly tallow-candle, was the only light to guide the doctor on his path.

The old watchman at the Lebanon Bank had his little shelter perched on the edge of the pavement, from which he emerged to tell the hours of the night and condition of the weather, or to give battle with his rusty sword to possible burglars, as the only living creature upon the scene except when

some roisterers from the village tavern were endeavoring to find their way home.

Signboards indicating places and distances were sometimes nailed upon trees in the woods; in some cases private interests were served, as one instance which stood as a sign for a horse-doctor. If the distances were as uncertain as the spelling, you would never know but what you might get outside the limits of the county in a vain search.

The good old country doctor, the family doctor, in those days was not a specialist; his field was wider,—from a child with colic to a surgical operation, from a birth to an agony of the death-bed; each called for his sympathy as well as professional skill, and both were given with devotion.

Pay, when given, might be in shinplasters or products of the farm, or with only thanks, which were often soon forgotten; but gratitude and fealty was more often observed, and the doctor was confidante and adviser in many of their domestic and business affairs; and a cherished friend.

Pow-wowers were competitors of the doctors in those days, some of the marvelous accounts of their cures could be accounted for as was the boy's strange story, by the assertion that he lied; others by manipulation, suggestion, faith, personal influence, etc., now known as massage, psychologic impression, hypnotism, etc., and still we have much to learn.

"Faith cures" and "mental healings" are much written about in the present day; functional ailments are eliminated by popular pastors and bishops, and clinics in churches are held for Christian Psychology.

Dementia-Americanæ (a new term for an old complaint), when afflicting the youngsters of the family in the olden time, was generally treated and cured by domestic measures,—the slipper of the mother or the broad hand of the father; brain-

storm in the school or play-yard was diverted by the birch-rod of the teacher.

"Stone oil" as it was then called, now known as crude petroleum, was brought from the wilderness of western Pennsylvania by an old man who made his long trips on horseback, and was considered a universal panacea for ills both external and internal, and was so esteemed by the Indians. This was gathered from the top of springs by placing a woolen blanket upon the surface of the water, whose iridescent appearance was attractive, and was afterward expressed and gathered into bottles.

The farmers' wives in the past century would visit the doctor's office spring and fall for a bleeding, bringing their bandage and half-penny to close the wound afterward; their indistinct waistline, double chin and florid complexion indicating a tendency to apoplexy.

The farmers having an overplus of rye would carry it to the distilleries, which were numerous, and have it converted into whiskey, which was marketable; reserving a portion for family use in case of sickness.

One of the most philanthropic changes, and showing the altruistic spirit of the age, is in the care of the insane.

The time was, and within my own recollection, when these unfortunates, existing not by their own will, were treated as brutes; often confined in the almshouse of the county in cells without light or heat, fed as animals, and exhibited to visitors in their nakedness and squalor as curiosities. Even at their birthplaces they were often confined in out-houses built for seclusion; having little sympathy shown them, and in many cases considered a curse and a curse.

In this present age the State has made provision for their keep and comfort. Hospitals and asylums are provided where they receive generous and kind treatment, together with a certain amount of liberty under careful supervision, so that many

of them are returned mentally restored to their families, all largely owing to our present day advanced medical science and teaching.

During the past decades this community has been invaded by epidemics of small-pox, Asiatic cholera, spotted fever (cerebro-spinal-meningitis), scarlet fever, diphtheria; placards have been placed upon many doors denying access of friends and isolating families. Pestilence brings fear to many a heart, but when friends shun you and you are in dread, the faithful doctor calls, not considering that he is placing himself and family in danger of contagion, but knowing it is his mission so to do.

The busy doctor was often deprived of the services of the sanctuary; but in the lonely night-rides when he viewed the glowing stars and the arched firmament above him, and felt the hush and stillness of the sleeping world around him, worshipped his God in Nature's own grand Cathedral.

Lebanon county has always been well supplied with doctors who were familiar with the needs of her people and acquainted with their homing, habits and family traits and tendencies. The low mortality rate speaks for the sturdiness of her people and the skill of the physicians.

The early settlers came from Southern Germany, along the Rhine, and had the same race characteristics, a quiet people and simple in their tastes; a religious people, honest and honorable, and played an important, if not always recorded, part in early colonial history. Of such stock come men eminent in the profession of medicine.—Drs. Muhlenberg, Wistar, Pepper, Leidy, Sadtler, Tyson, Reichert, Musser, Stengle, Mays, Rauch, and others.

In some of the churchyards lie buried doctors whose names are forgotten, but who served faithfully and well in their day and generation.

The churches have kept full record of their pastors and

the work done by them; but no one has entered up all the trials, hardships and good work of the local doctors.

"Some Doctors of the Olden Time," by J. H. Redsecker, Ph.M., a paper read before the Lebanon County Historical Society, October 10, 1900, and published in Transactions, Vol. I, No. 16, is a faithful biographical history of a few early-day practitioners, and a brilliant tribute to the medical profession.

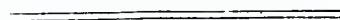
The first historical acquaintance we have with the Lebanon county doctors as a body, is of date February 13, 1847; at that time several prominent practitioners of the county met and decided upon organizing a County Medical Society.

The first regular meeting was held at the public house of Cyrus Carmany, in the town of Lebanon, on the fourteenth day of March, 1847, over sixty years ago, at which were present Drs. Jno. W. Glounger, D. S. Cooper, Benj. F. Schneck and David B. Marshall. They there and then adopted a Constitution and By-Laws, and subscribed to a Code of Ethics to govern their relations to themselves and the public.

This Society met quarterly, and increased in membership, but after several years was discontinued for a brief period.



In the month of April, 1851, however, a "Call for a Meeting of Physicians" in the county (a copy of which is affixed), was issued and responded to.



Copy of the Call for a Meeting of Physicians.

The undersigned pledge themselves to revive and maintain, to the utmost of their ability, the "Lebanon County Medical

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Society"; and further agree to meet on the second Saturday in May, at 1 o'clock, P. M., at the public house of Cyrus Carmany, for this purpose.

D. B. MARSHALL.

JNO. W. GLONINGER.

JEREMIAH BRETTENBACH.

B. F. SCHNECK,

SAMUEL BEHM.

Jos. O. SHINDEL,

C. D. GLONINGER,

J. W. ROHRER,

P. B. MISH.

Pursuant to this "Call," a meeting was held on May 10, 1851, and after opinions had been freely exchanged as to the best mode of establishing the proposed new society under the charter of the old society of 1847, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted, as indicating, in the opinion of the meeting, the most proper as well as safe plan of procedure:

WHEREAS, A portion of the members composing the Lebanon County Medical Society established in 1847 have this day met for the purpose of reviving and re-organizing said Society, therefore

Resolved. That the members who have signed the call for this meeting, and such as may hereafter be admitted as the By-Laws require, shall and do constitute the Lebanon County Medical Society.

Resolved. That this meeting do now resolve itself into the Lebanon County Medical Society, accepting and adopting the Constitution of the Society established in 1847, for their government.

* * * * *

On June 7, 1851, Dr. John W. Gloninger was elected President, and Dr. Benj. F. Selineck, Secretary.

Signatures to the Constitution.

JNO. W. GLOXINGER,	FRIED. SÖRG.
D. B. MARSHALL,	A. W. ZIEGENFUSS.
D. S. COOPER,	SAMUEL BEHM.
C. D. GLOXINGER,	BENJ. F. SCHNECK.
J. H. ROHRER,	JEREMIAH BREITENBACH.
DAVID P. BOYER,	SAM'L H. THOME,
P. B. MISH,	WM. M. GUILFORD.
A. GÜTTICH,	GEO. P. LINEAWEAVER.

J. O. SHINDLE.

During this epoch many original papers were read and discussed, reports of autopsies were made, delegates were elected to represent this Society in the annual State and National Associations, committees appointed to investigate prevailing local epidemics, etc. An issue of this period of special interest was that of a map of Lebanon county, in colors, descriptive of its topographical and geological character,—red sandstone, limestone and gravel (or slate) formation, and their influence upon the prevailing diseases in these zones, if any.

This map, finely illustrated, was published in the Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, together with the accompanying report, in A. D. 1853.



There is a long period—January 12, 1850, to March 14, 1887,—in which I do not have access (much to my regret) to any records, owing to loss of Minute Books. I know, however, that the Society had a continuous existence prior to 1887, and sent delegates to both State and National Associations.

It may be of some interest to give a slight account of the personality of some of the early founders of this Society.

Personality of a Few of the Early Members.

DR. JOHN W. GLONINGER may well be regarded as having been the Nestor of the profession. He was the preceptor of many students, had the largest medical library, was a great reader, enjoyed a large acquaintance with the prominent teachers in the medical schools of Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore; always ready to do a favor for his brother practitioners; was one of the earliest oculists in this country, and had many patients coming from a distance; was particularly successful in cataract cases, and restored many to sight.

In appearance tall and erect, scrupulous as to personal care, a gentleman of the olden school.

DR. BENJAMIN F. SCHNECK was born in Lebanon, where he lived all his life. A graduate of Franklin and Marshall College and the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania. He was a tall, well-formed man, of fine presence and address, and particularly cultured. A talented musician, an artist in painting, a forcible writer, an eloquent speaker. Frequently contributed to the medical journals; represented the Lebanon County Medical Society at the State and National Associations on different occasions; always took great interest in his local Society, and did much to promote its success.

DR. PHYSICK B. MISH, native of Lebanon, son of a physician, practiced both at Lebanon and Cornwall, gentle and philanthropic, much loved by his patients, died a comparatively young man.

DR. DAVID B. MARSHALL practiced at Annville, afterward



W.H. Glommer

FIRST PRESIDENT LEBANON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

at Lebanon; rather short and stout, heavily bearded, always wore a black frock-coat and high silk hat; was a fine diagnostician, and had a large clientele.

DR. SAMUEL BEHM, originally from near Campbelltown; was for several years Prothonotary of the county, during which time he studied medicine, and afterwards practiced in Lebanon. Was an earnest Methodist, and lay-preacher in that denomination. Had a lame leg, which made walking difficult, and mostly drove an old sorrel-horse at so slow a gait that I often wondered how he "got there."

DR. CYRUS DORSEY GLONINGER, son of Jno. W. Gloninger, a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College and the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania. After practicing in Lebanon a few years, he went to Paris to continue his studies. He gained the finest practice in Lebanon and vicinity, and did a large consultation practice. He was the local surgeon of his day.

DR. GEORGE P. LINEAWEAVER, an erect, military-looking man, son of an old practitioner; a great reader, particularly fond of Shakespeare; had a fine practice. He lost his life in the line of duty by contracting pneumonia while visiting patients during a severe blizzard.

DR. JOSEPH ORTH SHINDEL, native of Lebanon, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, practiced successfully at Cornwall (now Bismarck); a jolly companion, and regular attendant at the County Medical; had a fine practice.

DR. J. M. ROHRER also practiced at Cornwall for a short time; in delicate health, retired from active work and died young.

DR. JEREMIAH BREITENBACH, resided at Myerstown, a bachelor, rather reserved in manner; had a large practice, and was much esteemed.

DR. SAMUEL H. THOME, of Palmyra, a large, fine-looking man, a forceful character a strenuous politician; father of three sons physicians; had an extensive practice; always ready for a scrimmage either in politics or in the Society.

DR. ADAM GÜETTICH, a typical German, brusque and untidy; practiced in Jonestown. I remember seeing him much on horseback, riding a favorite white pony, always as though like Tam O'Shanter, who thought the devil was after him; no regard for the roads, though they were generally bad.

DR. FRIED SÖRG, native of Germany, practiced in Hanover at Stine's Store; had peculiar ideas of therapeutics, on one occasion bringing about a quart of live red ants to Ross' Drug Store to have a certain tincture compounded of them. Paid no attention to Medical Ethics, and was dropped from membership in the County Society.

* * * * *

The present Minutes (some of the Records being lost) begin with March 14, 1887, and have been carefully recorded by a succession of able secretaries.

There is much of interest in the many original papers read at the meetings, with special regard to their literary merit, the discussions and comments thereby brought out and the high professional tone of the membership indicated.

The Society has been ably represented by delegates to the State and National Associations.

The Secretaries' Annual Reports are interesting, being a compend of the work of the year, accompanied by valuable suggestions, and will constitute history.

The Medical and Surgical Reporters' reading and selections, culled from current medical literature, have been a popular feature, evoking comments and discussion.

The clinics by members, bringing interesting cases before the Society, demonstrating peculiar features and giving results, have been very popular.

A banquet held at the Eagle Hotel, December 7, 1897, was a great success, socially promoting good fellowship among members and guests; oratory and feasting prove cheerful companions.

Annual district meetings, held at Chiques Rock, 1904; Penryn, 1905; Ingleside, 1906; Conestoga Park, 1907, brought together many physicians from the Lancaster, Lebanon and Dauphin Medical Societies, and tended to promote fraternal and scientific interests.

Lectures and post-graduate instruction have for many years been given by distinguished professors and other eminent physicians, invited by the Society to appear before them, thus keeping the members in touch with the latest advances in medical science.

The Presidents of this Society have been:

DR. JOHN W. GLOENINGER,	DR. SAMUEL P. HEILMAN,
DR. SAMUEL BEIJER,	DR. H. H. ROEDEL,
DR. JEREMIAH BRETTENBACH,	DR. J. R. BECKLEY,
DR. CYRUS D. GLOENINGER,	DR. J. W. TRABERT,
DR. BENJ. F. SCHNECK,	DR. W. F. KLEIN,
DR. DAVID S. COOPER,	DR. EZRA GRUMBINE,
DR. WM. M. GUILFORD,	DR. JOHN LIGHT,
DR. SAMUEL WEISS,	DR. WM. R. ROEDEL,
DR. J. W. KEITIE,	DR. S. D. BOESHOE,
DR. J. K. ULRICH,	DR. H. E. MAULFAIR,
	DR. D. M. RANK.

Secretaries.

DR. BENJ. F. SCHNECK, DR. JOHN WALTER,

DR. WM. M. GUILFORD, DR. H. H. ROEDEL,

DR. A. B. GLONINGER, DR. SAM'L P. HEILMAN,

DR. J. R. BECKLEY, DR. C. L. MILLER,

DR. C. M. STRICKLER.

The American Medical Association was organized A. D. 1848, in the City of Philadelphia; the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania in the City of Lancaster, in 1848; the Lebanon County Medical Society in Lebanon, March, 1847, thus antedating both State and National Associations.

There has never been issued, so far as can be ascertained, a collected history of the medical men of Lebanon county.

Some of the earliest practitioners were: Dr. Woods, who lived at Williamsburg (now Jonestown), about the year 1780; Dr. Casper Sweitzer, at Schaefferstown, 1790; Dr. Jacob Grubb, Schaefferstown, 1800; Dr. Samuel Earl, Millerstown (now Annville), about 1810; Dr. Amos Shannon, at Stumpstown (now Fredericksburg), 1823; Dr. Jacob Hittel, Jonestown, 1824; Dr. Ancona, Kelleys' Corner (near what is now Lawn), 1831.

Drs. Henderson and Rutherford practiced among the Scotch-Irish settlers on the western border of our county in the early days.

Since then there have been many, very many, doctors who have enjoyed an honorable and useful position and practice in Lebanon county, beloved by their patients, taking an active part in all public interests of their neighborhood, valuable citizens. To mention all entitled to the honor would require a separate article; to omit any might cause misunderstanding.

The following lines are added as a poetic delineation of the responsibilities, cares, the humanities and triumphs of the medical man.

THE DOCTOR AT THE PARTING OF THE CENTURIES.*

To cure their ills, to guard the people's health
Brings little fame and scarcely more of wealth.
'Tis rare indeed upon the roll of fame
To find inscribed the busy doctor's name;
Nor is it wrought in gold or carved in stone,
Few poets have writ the things by doctors done,
To worship heroes and to sing their praise,
To tell of love in many different ways,
Of human happiness and human grief,
All this has been of poetry the chief;
And yet, methinks, the greatest theme of all
Has been neglected, and scarce sung at all,
Who of all men sees *most* of all these things?
Who of all men to those who suffer brings
Most comfort, most relief from pain?
Whose is the helping hand ne'er sought in vain?
Ask of you happy little lad,
Whose legs were crooked and whose back was bad,
Who made him straight and put his back at rest?
Ask of some mother at whose happy breast
A new-born babe is held with joy and pride,
Who sat beside her and to whom she cried
For help and comfort in her hour of pain?
And ask her if she ever cried in vain,
Ask of the soldier, back from some campaign,
To whom he owes it that he's home again?
Ask him who ran to help him when he fell,
And snatched him from the very jaws of hell,
Where bullets rained and shells were bursting round,
And dead and dying cumbered all the ground?
When pestilence and plague, with horrid breath,
Are stalking through the land and dealing death,
Who faces them without a thought of fear?
Whose is the voice the sufferer loves to hear?
All these the doctor does, has done, will ever do;
These are his duties, and his pleasures, too;
Not that he loves to see and hear the pain,
But loves to make the sufferer smile again;

Loves to wipe tears away, to hush the cry
Of anguish, or, if need be, make it easier to die.
And yet they tell us that no doctor's name
Deserves a tablet in the Hall of Fame!
What in this century, now almost dead,
Have doctors done? Let history be read:
The curse of smallpox for a thousand years
And more had filled the world with tears;
Then JENNER came and taught mankind
The secret—and the curse was left behind—
Not quite behind, for some poor fools refuse
The proffered gift and fain would choose
To die or suffer and bear horrid scars.
Thus ignorance the way of progress bars.
Scarce one of us now living can recall
The awful tortures of the hospital.
When patients shrieked beneath the surgeon's knife,
When cruel pain alone could save the life.
But, thanks to MORTON, JACKSON, SIMPSON, LONG,
To each some share of glory shall belong.
The pain is banished, and the knotted brow
Of agony is smooth and peaceful now.
Nor was the pain the only thing to fear,
The suffering patient had still more to bear;
The fevered wound, which oft refused to close,
Prolonged the period of the sufferer's woes.
Then PASTEUR, TYNDALL, LISTER came upon the scene,
And surgeons learned the art of being clean.
These things have doctors done, and many more.

* * * * *

What of the future? What has she in store?
I dare not say, I dare not even guess,
And yet I know that it shall not be less.

[A New York newspaper some years ago requested its readers to submit lists of those whose names they deemed worthy of a place within the Hall of Fame which is to be erected under the direction of the University of New York. 750 lists, each containing 50 names, were submitted, and among them all there was not the name of a single member of the medical profession. This circumstance suggested the foregoing lines. By Burnside Foster, M.D., Dec., 1890.]

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